

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 19, 2003
12 noon

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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PUBLIC COOPERATION ASKED IN SNOW RECOVERY **FIRE HYDRANTS, STORM DRAINS NEED ATTENTION**

State and local officials ask that members of the public aid communities in recovery from the snowstorm by being aware of problem areas in their neighborhoods that could result in a delay in emergency service or in flooding.

Residents or businesses that are in the proximity of a fire hydrant are asked to clear snow and ice from around the hydrant if at all possible.

Delaware Emergency Management Agency Deputy Director Glenn Gillespie said that many hydrants are still covered with snow and fire service personnel have to dig them out before they can attach water hoses.

“If the public can help us out by getting snow away from covered hydrants, it will be greatly appreciated,” Gillespie said. “Most people who live near one or have a business near one, know where they are, so we’re asking that they take the time to shovel and push snow and ice away if they can.”

Joe Murabito, director of the state fire school, said that there are several ways the public can help out as Delaware recovers from the snowstorm.

“Clearing snow from around hydrants is a big way the public can help us,” Murabito said. “If they would clean the snow from their house numbers so they are visible, we would appreciate it. Also, with the streets still

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crowded with piles of snow, we ask that drivers be aware of fire apparatus traveling to an emergency. If you see a fire truck or ambulance, please yield to it and allow it safe passage.

Remember three things:

- Help us find you
- Make your fire hydrant accessible
- Please get out of the way of fire equipment.”

Another area of concern is storm sewer openings. The public is asked to look for snow and/or debris in and around storm drains. Melting snow plus rain predicted for the weekend will place additional burden on the storm water drain system and it is important that the drains are cleared and open.

Gillespie said that clearing drains in local municipalities is very important and communities should do all they can to assist. He said street flooding and water backing up into yards and properties can result if the drains are clogged with snow and debris.

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